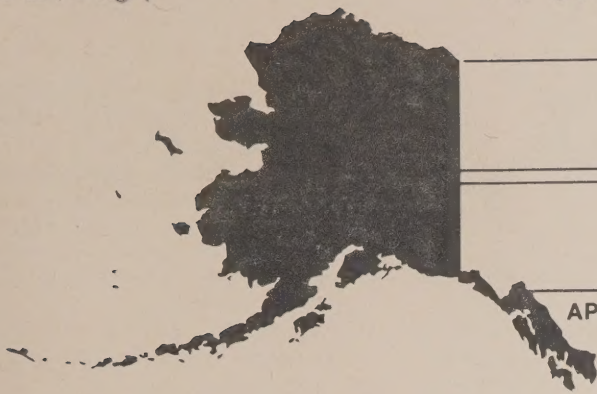




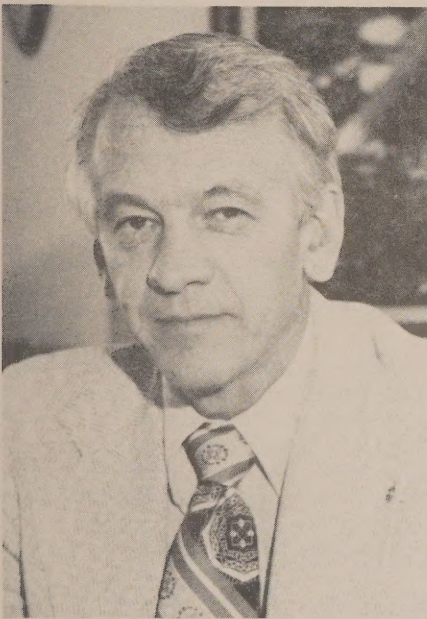
ALASKA PEOPLE

APRIL 1984

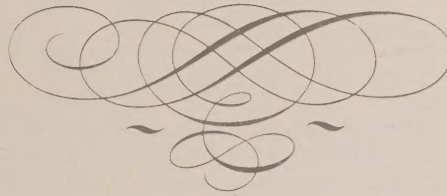
VOLUME VI

NUMBER XI

Alaska's BLM Awaits the Changing of the Guard



Outgoing State Director, Curtis V. McVee (left). Retired March 30, 1984.



Incoming State Director, Michael J. Penfold (right). New duties to start officially May 13, 1984.

Robert Burford, BLM Director, announced the reassignment of Michael J. Penfold, 46, as the new state director for Alaska.

The reassignment of Penfold, currently Montana's state director, came as a result of Curt McVee's stepping down from Alaska's top job after 34 years of government service. Penfold will officially assume his new duties May 13th, although he is reportedly coming to Alaska the latter part of April to attend a briefing for Secretary of Interior, William Clark. The Secretary will be coming up to be a part of President Reagan's entourage as he meets the Pope in Fairbanks. While here, Penfold will meet as many staff members as time allows.

In announcing the decision, Bob Burford praised Penfold's management skill: "He has demonstrated considerable ability in accomplishing agency program goals and is familiar with how our programs are run and what issues we are facing in Alaska."

Michael Penfold first joined the Bureau of Land Management back in 1979 when he took over the job of Montana state director, replacing Edward "Moose" Zaidlicz, who had retired earlier that year.

The government career of Alaska's new state director actually started in 1956 with the Forest Service. He was a timber cruiser during summer breaks from school. In 1957, Penfold was a trail crew foreman, again, as a summer job, and in 1958 - '59 he was a smokejumper for the Forest Service on temporary status.

His fulltime government career status started 24 years ago, in 1960, with the Black Hills National Forest. He was a forester then, a position he held until 1965 before being transferred to Colorado's Aspen Ranger Station as a forest ranger. In 1967 he was assigned to the Arapaho National Forest as lands and minerals chief for two years.

In '69 Penfold took over the slot of branch chief, recreation with the Forest Service in Arizona and New Mexico. He became the Jefferson National Forest supervisor with the Forest Service after that in 1970. He held the supervisor's slot for the next eight years.

In 1978 he was detailed to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQUA) in Washington, D.C., a position that lasted roughly a year. Then the BLM part of his career started when he went to Billings, Mont., and accepted the assignment of state director there.

Born in New Philadelphia, Ohio, Penfold received a BS degree in forestry from Colorado State University in 1960. He and his wife Dona have four daughters; Jennie, Julianne, Joanna and Lorilee.

McVee Finishes Duties at BLM Amid Travel, Good Wishes

by Marnie Isaacs

State Director Curtis McVee's last weeks of work were tabbed for some serious business, a Land Use Council meeting in Juneau with the Bristol Bay plan on the agenda; a state director's meeting in San Diego; a meeting with agency and oil industry heads -- and retirement for one of the longest in-place state directors in recent BLM memory.

Official duties notwithstanding, colleagues took the opportunity in March to bid Curt a fond retirement; and Curt took time to enjoy the best wishes of his BLM staff. While in Juneau for the Land Use Council meeting March 20-22, Curt was honored at a luncheon attended by Gov. Sheffield, Lt. Governor McAlpine, and many commissioners and executive branch staff. The governor and Land Use Council presented several plaques noting his work with the state and the council. Staff committee members for the council presented him with several at-work photos depicting both low and high points at council sessions. At the State Director's Conference in San Diego, March 26-29, Curt received a pair of binoculars along with his send off by BLM managers, many of whom he

has worked with during his 32 year career with BLM.

Curt's formal retirement dinner March 24 at the Captain Cook provided many sentiments and digs at Curt, his career, and its varied duties. More than 350 people attended the dinner including many Native industry and government leaders who have worked with him over the years. Telegrams with good wishes from President Reagan, members of the congressional delegation, Secretary Clark, and former interior secretaries Kleppe and Andrus were among the documents presented to Curt from those who could not attend. BLM Director Burford recorded a video message praising Curt's "handling" of the bureau's mobility and tenure policy which seemed to affect everyone. A series of employee skits and video clips from friends in the bureau were also presented via big screen video, followed by gifts and a rousing hand of good luck to Curt, his wife Joyce, and their family.

Curt's last day was Friday, March 30. That afternoon he spent time with each division at the Alaska State Office for a personal farewell. Not one to leave business unfinished, however, he was seen at his desk in April, and we suspect his presence will appear again soon.

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Thank You

4/10

Alaska State Office

Dear Friends:

Even though the last few weeks have been hectic, you have made it exciting and we have enjoyed it all. I know a great effort was needed to put together the retirement party and although I approached it with some trepidation, it was thoroughly enjoyable.

We are beginning to adjust to a new life style with our first priority to find places for the mementos and gifts. We want to get them displayed where they can be enjoyed and serve as reminders of the many friends and good people in BLM.

Although our formal relationship with the Bureau has ended, we have no intention of losing contact with the people who make up the Bureau.

Thanks again for the contributions you all made to the party. The scrapbook will be cherished, the ivory bear added to the collection, and the 12 gauge a companion on many planned trips to the bush. It seems an inadequate expression of appreciation, but thanks also for the many years of assistance and support.

Curt



Curt McVee gives his closing remarks at his retirement dinner.

ADO Realty Specialists Prepare for the '84 Field Season

As spring approaches Peninsula and McGrath Resource Area, realty specialists are busy finishing up last year's work and preparing for the upcoming field season. Because of good weather conditions, organization, and everything going smoothly, last year's crews were able to finish the scheduled 700 Native allotments by early July. They also did 650 Native allotments scheduled for the FY '84 field season. This year the McGrath Resource Area is beginning a "cleanup program" finishing up allotments from McGrath to Bethel along the Kuskokwim River.

A lot of preparation is done before the realty specialists actually go out into the field. They must determine where the parcels are located, plot them on a map, and compile the information into file folders to take with them as they do the examinations.

Once the case files are assembled, the realty specialists contact the applicants to arrange a time when they will be available to accompany them to examine the claim. The applicant's schedule, the helicopter's availability, and the

weather are all strong factors in how fast they can get the job done. Many of the applicants subsistence fish during the summer, and it is often difficult to contact them before fishing season.

Living in the bush and doing summer field work are often filled with variety. Last summer two six-person crews (eight realty specialists and four natural resource specialists), two helicopter pilots, and a mechanic worked 10-day shifts rotating one crew in the field and one crew in the office. Most of the allotments were located approximately 100 miles northwest of Bethel near the villages of St. Marys, Emmonak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay.

The crews spend much of their time in helicopters flying each Native allottee and an interpreter (if needed) to the allotments for which they applied. Last summer's crews worked in an area which was relatively flat and made up of dry and wet tundra with many small lakes. Realty specialist Meg Jensen says, "Wildlife in the area consists mainly of small mammals and lots of birds, but there was never a lack of

mosquitos; sometimes there were BILLIONS of them!"

At St. Marys the crew lived in a Catholic mission. The realty specialists said "the food was bad." Dinners consisted of various "mush meal" dishes. Leftovers were served over and over, then stored without covers in a refrigerator with fish.

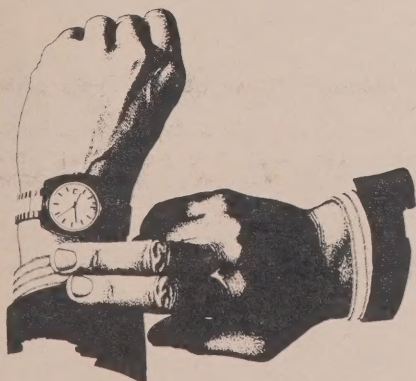
Moving to the village of Emmonak was like going from famine to feast! The crews stayed in BIA teacher housing and had a BLM-hired cook who served such gourmet specialties as bouillabaisse with lobster. Living quarters were spacious, and the cook catered to the crew's working hours.

Jensen said, "The remoteness of the area was very evident in the village of Scammon Bay where the phones were out of order most of the time. Keeping in shape consisted of jogging up and down the half-mile airstrip (if the village had one) or jogging back and forth through town." It is uncertain at this point where the crew members will be staying this year; it could be a tent, a mission, or maybe BIA housing; but every field season is a new adventure!

Alaska's Time Zones Renamed

According to the December 12 Federal Register, Vol 48, the "Yukon" time zone which covers most of Alaska has been changed to the "Alaska" time zone, and the "Alaska-Hawaii" time zone has been changed to the "Hawaii-Aleutian" time zone.

The Department of Transportation will use "AKST/AKDT" when referring to Alaska Standard Time and "AIST/AIDT" when referring to the "Hawaii-Aleutian" time zone.



Realty Specialist Jan Sosnowski puts in a corner on a Native allotment.

Public Land Information Centers to Open Soon

Alaska will soon have Public Lands Information Centers in Tok, Fairbanks, Anchorage, and in southeast Alaska. The information centers were decreed by Section 1305 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) passed in 1980. Representatives from eight federal and state agencies have been meeting for the last two years to work together on planning and implementing the information centers.

Tok Public Land Information Center will be the first to open in May 1984, and a dedication ceremony will be held July 4. The Tok Information Center will be located in the Tok Highway Patrol building and will be approximately 3,500 square feet in size. The Fairbanks Information Center is scheduled to open in late fall, and

the Anchorage Information Center is projected to open May 1985. Both the Fairbanks and Anchorage Information Centers will be located in downtown areas in the old federal buildings. The size of Fairbanks' information center will be approximately 5,800 square feet, and Anchorage's will be approximately 9,000 square feet. The fourth information center will be in either Juneau, Ketchikan, or Sitka. The location is still being decided.

The general theme for all four information centers will be to provide information on all the Alaska regions but to emphasize the activity and character of the region in which it is located. All four centers are designed to be "one stop visitor services". They will be oriented toward tourists in buses as well as to the wilderness

backpacker. There will be something for everyone including the local people. The theme of each information center will be to tell about Alaska, how Alaskans live, what they do for work and play, and what there is for the visitor to see and do. Information from each of the eight agencies involved will be provided, but it will be oriented toward the visitor rather than proclaiming the individual agencies.

The eight agencies involved are:

- The National Park Service
- U.S. Geological Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- State of Alaska Division of Tourism
- State of Alaska Division of Parks
- State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game

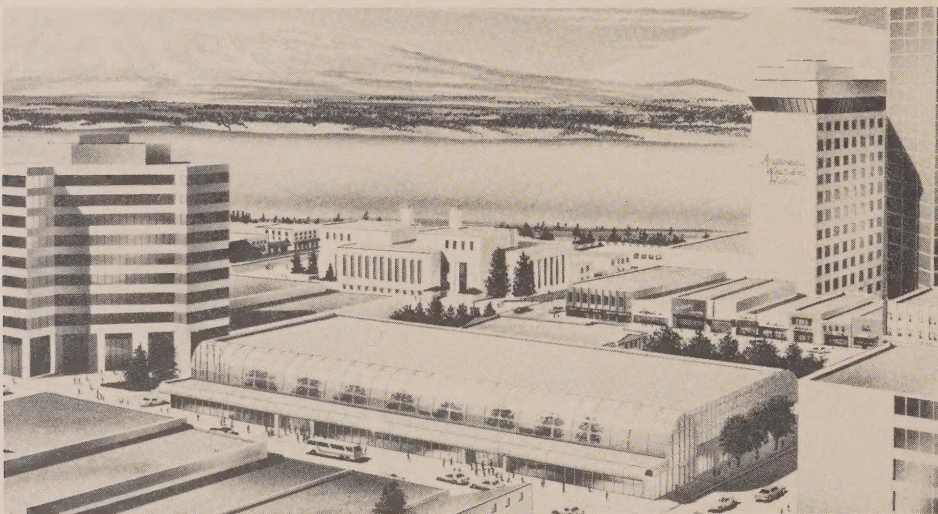


Photo courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Anchorage Public Land Information Center, which will open in May 1985, will be located in the old federal building on 4th Avenue.

A drawing of the Anchorage Public Lands Information Center.



Anchorage Area Federal Employees May Receive COLA Backpay

Anchorage-area federal employees who worked for the federal government in 1980, 1981 or 1982 may receive Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) back pay. Federal employees received the maximum 25-percent cost-of-living allowance in 1979. The figure was dropped to 20 percent in 1980, 17.5 percent in 1981, and 22.5 percent in 1982. The federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., ruled that federal employees are entitled to the difference between the 20 percent and the 17.5 percent rates in effect for 1980 and 1981 and the 25 percent rate in effect for 1979.

In a decision issued March 5, the court said the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) should have held public hearings before reducing the taxfree allowance from 25 percent of base pay to 20 percent in 1980 and 17.5 percent in 1981. The court also ruled that OPM must consider the difference in goods and services available in Anchorage and Washington, D.C., and the local lifestyle of people not employed by the federal government.

According to Sterling Powell, chairman of the Anchorage COLA Committee, "OPM has until June 5, 1984, to seek Supreme Court review.

If OPM does not appeal, the motions to approve the back pay could be processed quickly and awarded as soon as this fall." Powell also said, "the COLA itself will not be taxed, but the interest on the COLA is taxable. The rate of interest is yet to be determined, as is the date at which the interest will start."

Some estimates are that the suit will affect roughly 15,000 employees assuming 30 percent/year turnover for GS employees in the Anchorage area. Estimates put the average GS level for Anchorage at 9.4. Using these figures would result in a total award without interest of approximately \$18 million.

For more information contact the COLA Committee Chairman Sterling Powell, 3232 Knik, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or BLM's committee representative, Ann Adams, in the Sealaska Section of ASO's Division of Conveyance Management.

FDO Celebrated Black History Month

by Ray Bonnell

The Fairbanks District celebrated National Black History Month during February. The theme for this year was Black education. The contributions of Blacks to U.S. history and culture were commemorated through graphic displays, films, a luncheon, and a talk by a local black educator.

Dr. Kenneth Burnley, superintendent of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, was the guest speaker at an all-employee meeting February 22. Dr. Burnley spoke on the shaping of U.S. history and culture by past events involving Blacks. He explored the rich cultural heritage in art, music, and religion which was brought with Blacks from Africa and how Black cultural elements have influenced U.S. culture. He discussed forgotten contributions made by Blacks which usually were excluded from history books. Dr. Burnley stressed the importance of Black education institutions, their present economic difficulties, and possible solutions to their problems.

After Dr. Burnley's presentation, a "taster's choice" luncheon featuring Black ethnic food was held.

Health Fair Rated Excellent by Many Who Attended

The April 5 Health Fair held at the Anchorage Federal Building was rated "an overall success" by Site Coordinator Blanche Tinius. More than 500 people, including many BLMers, participated in the tests available; and 315 blood tests were performed. According to Tinius most of those who participated rated the fair as "excellent" in the followup questionnaire and wanted to know if the fair would be held again next year.

Tinius, who is one of two nurses in the federal building health unit, said the planning started last August. She spent all of March working on preparations for the fair and getting volunteers. The fair was coordinated with the Chevron Health Fairs held throughout Anchorage and the state during the same week. This is the first time a health fair has been held in the federal building.

For those of you who took the blood tests, the results will be sent to you four to six weeks after testing. Those with abnormal results will receive a phone call explaining the abnormal results.



ASO BLMer Valerie Arruda (left) takes a blood test at the Federal Building Health Fair.

The BLM Volunteer Program

by Doris Hill

Many employees are not aware that the Bureau in Alaska has a very active volunteer program. By definition, a volunteer is anyone who voluntarily and without compensation or reimbursement provides personal services to the Bureau within the limits of the volunteer agreement. Included in that category are persons who may be paid a stipend from some other source, or who may be somewhat reimbursed for their expenses such as CETA and WIN workers, job site placement candidates from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Student Conservation Association, and college work study participants.

During FY '83, BLM in Alaska had a total of 51 volunteers, who worked an average of 422 hours each for a total of 21,528 hours. Those figures represent a significant contribution which supplemented our current, and probably continuing, restricted budget.

Volunteers have worked in a wide variety of jobs from clerical work to resource research and planning. The only services they cannot perform are those associated with law enforcement, fee collecting, or hazardous activity, such as firefighting or survey work which involves regular flying in helicopters. There are also restrictions which prohibit volunteers from serving in policy-making jobs.

Volunteers are not required to meet minimum age requirements or to be citizens and are covered by compensation if injured on the job. They can be reimbursed for some expenses, such as food, lodging, and transportation consistent with available funds and their own individual need. They each must be covered by an agreement, signed by both the volunteer (with parental consent, as required) and by the representative of the agency accepting the service.

There are many sources of recruitment for volunteers. In addition to students and referrals from public interest programs, volunteers can be obtained through interest generated by public advertising, through contacts with the United Way Volunteer Program, the American Association of Retired Persons, or with local pretrial diversion and alternative public service programs.

Managers should be aware of the program and should actively seek opportunities to utilize volunteers whenever possible. For further information regarding the development of jobs for volunteer, assistance in recruitment, requirements for necessary documentation concerning volunteers, or other pertinent information, managers can refer to Bureau Manual 1114 or call Doris Hill, volunteer coordinator at 271-5043.

The Copper Curtis Award

One of the highlights of State Director Curtis V. McVee's retirement dinner was the video tape of BLM skits. In order to recognize the dramatic efforts, Chris Boone, David Dorris, and Dick Verniman were assigned to review and select a winner from the skits shown at the party. The six best skits were selected and independently ranked by each judge. A point value was assigned for each rank with the total score determining the winner.

And the winner is....

The Anchorage District Office's
EVEN STATE DIRECTOR'S
"HORSE" AROUND
featuring:

Kay Johnson, Chief, ADO
Operations

Jim Johnson, Chief, ADO
Lands & Renewable Resources

Herb Brasseur, Engineer

Dave Mabraten, Realty
Specialist

Mac Wheeler, Maintenance
Shop

Kirk Rowdabaugh, Ecologist

Dave Dapkus, Outdoor
Recreation Planner

Tony Williams, Carpenter

Second place went to:

ASO Division of Operation's
skit entitled...

"CURT WELCOMES THE
NEW DIRECTOR OF BLM"

featuring:

Jerry Zamber, ASO DSD
for Operations



Roger Trimble (right), Alaska Fire Service manager, presents a 10 year service pin to Dede Domingos (middle), AFS Branch of Supply chief; and a 20 year service pin to Larry Duffy (left), AFS warehouse leader.



WELCOME ABOARD

(March)

Janice Crouch, Miscellaneous Documents Clerk, ASO Division of Operations
George Oviatt, Land Surveyor, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Stephen Hartman, Natural Resource Specialist, ASO Division of Operations
Mary O'Daniel, Mail & File Clerk, FDO
Don Pino, Position Classification Specialist, ASO Division of Administration



MOVING ON

(March)

Curtis V. McVee, ASO State Director
Betty Salsbury, Contract Specialist, FDO
James Veitch, Supervisory Forestry Technician (Smoke-ump), AFS
Tammy Frankforter, Clerk Typist, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
Russell Johnson, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Operations
Vincent Cromer, Land Surveyor Trainee, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Lynn O'Brien, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management
James Appleton, Land Surveyor Trainee, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Willa May Shore, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management
Virginia Main, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Mineral Resources
Ella Conklin, Cartographic Technician, FDO
Rolando Miranda, Electrician, FDO
Nadia Hladun, Cartographic Aide, ASO Division of Cadastral Survey
Theresa Clark, Supervisory Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Operations

ACCOLADES

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SUSTAINED SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

Stan Bloom, Cartographic Technician, FDO
Jeffrey W. Scott, Environmental Planner, FDO
Carol A. Belenski, Illustrator, ADO

APPRECIATION AWARD

Marshall A. Strauss, Cartographic Technician, ASO Cadastral Survey

PERSONAL NOTES

FDO employees **Pete Bowers**, **Bob Gal**, **Howard Smith**, and **Dave Ruppert** helped organize the Alaska Anthropological Association's annual conference held at the Fairbanks campus of the University of Alaska. Several FDO employees also presented papers. **Bob King** presented a paper entitled "Networking Alaska's Past: The Ethnohistoric Study of Samuel Heeter, Pioneer of Rampart and Tanana". **John Cook** presented a paper entitled "Obsidian Neutron Activation Analysis and Hydration Dating". **Bob Gal** presented a paper entitled "Photogrammetric Mapping Archeological Sites in Arctic Alaska: A Feasibility Test at the Sikoruk Site at Tukuto Lake".

Born to **Judy** and **Dick Bouts**, FDO Recreation Planner in the Division of Resources, Matthew Johnson Bouts, 8 lbs. 5½ oz. on February 27.

ASO's **Jim Shiffer** and his wife **Rita** have been named co-directors of the Family Life Office of the Archdiocese of Anchorage. They are responsible for the marriage preparation programs of the archdiocese and act as liaison for family-related programs such as Marriage Encounter and Jacobs Well. They are members of St. Patrick's parish in Anchorage.

New brides at ADO: **Monna Ivy** is now **Monna Carter** and Cadastral's **Barbara Ogletree** has changed her name to **Barbara Partin**.

ADO's **Gayle Erickson** and daughter **Susan** traveled to the Caribbean where they sailed on the S.S. Norway to St. Thomas and other islands.

ADO's Division of Minerals presented outgoing State Director **Curt McVee** with a Tlingit carving done by Alaskan artist **Rich Sheakley** ("Shut'gei") of Hoonah. The carving was colored with natural dyes from Alaskan flora.

ADO Fire Management Officer **Jack Lewis**, who moonlights as a scuba and deep sea diver, was tapped by the State Troopers in Seward in March to provide search and rescue services during the state's remote parcel land sale on Blying Sound near Seward. Lewis and a class of advanced students performed a grid search of Johnstone Lake in an attempt to locate the bodies of two men participating in the settlement program. Lewis said Seward was inundated with hundreds of land seekers.

ASO's **Curtis McVee** and **Willa May Shore** each received a letter from President and Mrs. Reagan congratulating them on their retirement and best wishes for the future.

RETIREES

Recently we wrote to the Alaska BLM retirees for whom we had addresses and asked them, "Where are you living and what have you been doing since retirement from BLM?" Below and in upcoming issues we will print portions of the responses we received.

Thomas H. Schoder

Box 2043, Homer, AK 99603

"I have been living in Homer and enjoying the advantages of rural life."

Norman McDonald

1890 NW 39th St., P.O. Box 415, Lincoln City, OR 97367

"I have not been working for seven months and have decided to go into real estate. Lincoln City, Ore., is a great place to live, but I still miss many things about Alaska. I want to go back to visit, and I will."

Bill Lowe

SR Rt 3, Box 7180 Rambler, Chugiak, AK 99567

"I've been enjoying the release from the daily commute, learning how to sleep in, repairing and adding to my home, and most recently recovering from a six month cross-country trip from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean."

Wickstrom Receives Meritorious Service Award

State Director Curtis McVee recently presented the Meritorious Service Award to Jerry Wickstrom for his accomplishments in establishing a leasing program for the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR-A). The citation noted Wickstrom met the department's goals for leasing on the reserve despite difficult environmental, political, and logistical conditions.

Wickstrom, who resigned from federal service in 1983, led planning for the Bureau's NPR-A activities since 1977. He began his federal

career as a land examiner with BLM in Fairbanks in 1962. He worked for Fairbanks BLM until 1968 when he went to work as a wildlife management specialist in Winnemucca, Nevada. He moved back to Anchorage in 1973 to work as a natural resource specialist, and in 1981 he became program manager for NPR-A.

The Meritorious Service Award is the second highest honor that can be granted to a senior executive in the federal service.



State Director Curtis McVee (left) reads aloud a letter congratulating Jerry Wickstrom on receiving the Meritorious Service Award. Wickstrom and his wife are on the right.

ADO Receives Patent Authority

by Joette Storm

The Anchorage District celebrated its 20th anniversary in March by exercising its new authority to process and issue patents when District Manager Wayne Boden signed the document transferring title to 1.8 acres of land to the Catholic Church.

The land is the site of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Clark's Point, Alaska, a village in Bristol Bay. It was purchased under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

Except for the Fairbanks District which has had a land office for a number of years, the Anchorage District is the only such unit within the Bureau which has authority to issue land patents. The delegation is part of an agency effort to decentralize procedures.

"District responsibilities have been slowly expanding since the early days, but in the past year we have seen a dramatic increase in functions," says Boden. "We are feeling the satisfaction of being able to accomplish the entire job rather than having just one piece of the action."

The patent was handled by the one-year-old Branch of Casefile Processing, a part of the Division of Operations, headed by Sandy Dunn.

In addition, the Branch is also authorized to issue mineral patents under a new delegation of authority.

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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